

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for requesting information provided over a network, comprising:
displaying at least one symbolic image representing at least one respective information provider on a user terminal;
displaying a predetermined domain for declaring an information request;
detecting that a user has selected at least one symbolic image and moved the selected symbolic image to the predetermined domain; and
requesting the information from the information provider corresponding to the selected symbolic image.
2. A method for requesting information as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined domain is divided into divisions having respective different locations on a display of the user terminal display, such divisions corresponding to an interest level for the requested information, wherein information distribution is requested based on the level corresponding to the moved position of the selected symbolic image.
3. A method for requesting information as claimed in claim 1, wherein when it is detected that a symbolic image has been moved to the predetermined domain, it is detected whether other symbolic images exist in the predetermined domain and, when it is detected that other symbolic images exist, the information is requested, including information relating to the other symbolic images, from information distributors corresponding to the other symbolic images.
4. A method for requesting services from a service provider, comprising:
displaying a symbolic image representing a service provider on a user terminal,
displaying a predetermined domain for declaring use of service; and
detecting that a user has selected the symbolic image corresponding to the service provider and moved the symbolic image to the predetermined domain.
5. A service application apparatus comprising:
a service provider display displaying, on a user terminal, a symbolic image corresponding to a service provider for providing services via a network;

a service request domain display displaying, on the user terminal, a service request domain for requesting services;

a detector detecting that a user has moved the symbolic image displayed on the user terminal to the service request domain;

a service requesting unit identifying the symbolic image detected with the detector, generating service requesting data and transmitting the service requesting data to the service provider corresponding to the symbolic image; and

a service providing unit providing, on the user terminal, the services provided from the service provider.

6. A service application apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said service provider display further comprises:

a changing unit for changing a display position of the symbolic image depending on a user manipulation, and

a management unit managing the display position of the symbolic image for each user, wherein

said service requesting unit transmits symbolic image display position information as an object of selection to the service provider in addition to the service requesting data and

said service providing unit executes a service adjusted depending on the display position of the symbolic image from the service provider.

7. A service application apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said detector detects a position of the symbolic image on the service request domain and notifies this position to the service requesting unit,

said service requesting unit transmits the position of the symbolic image on the service request domain to the service provider together with the service requesting data and

said service providing unit provides services, adjusted depending on the position of the symbolic image on the service request domain, from the service provider.

8. A service application apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said service requesting unit detects whether other symbolic images already exist in the service request domain and also transmits such symbolic images together with the information about the other symbolic images to the service provider when the other symbolic images are detected.

9. An information providing system for periodically transmitting desired information in response to an application from a user transmitted via a network, comprising:

an information provider display displaying a symbolic image representing an information provider on a user terminal;

an information requesting domain display displaying, on the user terminal, an information request domain to accept an information request;

a detector detecting that a user has selected one or a plurality of symbolic images corresponding to the information provider to detect that the selected symbolic image is moved to the information requesting domain;

an information requesting unit identifying the symbolic image detected with the detector and transmitting generated data for requesting information from the information provider corresponding to the selected symbolic image; and

an information display displaying the information distributed from the information requesting unit.

10. An information providing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

said information provider display includes a position changing unit changing a display position of a symbolic image in response to a user manipulation and a management unit managing the display of the symbolic image for each user,

said information requesting unit transmits the information requesting data to the information provider including a display position of the symbolic image as a selection object and said information display receives the information adjusted in accordance with the display position of the symbolic image from the information provider and displays the information.

11. An information providing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

said detector detects a position of the symbolic image on the information requesting domain and then transmits the position data to the information requesting unit,

said information requesting unit transmits the information requesting data to the information provider, including the position of the symbolic image on the information requesting domain, and

said information display displays the information adjusted depending on the position of symbolic image on the relevant information requesting domain from the information provider.

12. An information providing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein
said information requesting unit detects whether other symbolic images already exist in
the information requesting domain and transmits, when the other symbolic images are detected,
information relating to the other symbolic images to the information provider.

13. An advertisement distributing system for periodically distributing advertisement
information from an advertisement distributor to users via a network, comprising:

an advertisement provider display displaying, to the users, a symbolic image
corresponding to the advertisement distributor;

a display displaying, on the user terminals, an advertisement requesting domain for
accepting an advertisement distribution reservation;

a detector for detecting that a user has selected one or a plurality of symbolic images
corresponding to an information provider and has moved the symbolic image to the
advertisement requesting domain;

an advertisement distribution reservation requesting unit identifying the symbolic image
detected with the detector and generating and transmitting distribution reservation requesting
data to the advertisement distributor corresponding to the relevant symbolic image; and

an information display displaying the advertisement information distributed from the
advertisement distributor to the user terminal corresponding to the user.

14. An advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein
said advertisement provider display includes a position changing unit changing the
display position of a symbolic image in response to a user manipulation and a management unit
managing the display position of the relevant symbolic image for each user,

said advertisement distribution reservation requesting unit transmits the distribution
reservation requesting data to the advertisement distributor, including the display position of the
symbolic image as a selection object, and

said information display receives and displays the advertisement information adjusted
depending on the display position of the relevant symbolic image transmitted from the
advertisement distributor.

15. An advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein
said detector detects a position of symbolic image on the advertisement requesting
domain and transmits the position data to the advertisement distribution reservation requesting

unit,

said advertisement distribution reservation requesting unit transmits the distribution reservation requesting data to the advertisement distributor including the position of the symbolic image on the advertisement requesting domain and

said information display displays the advertisement information adjusted depending on the position of symbolic image on the relevant advertisement requesting domain from the information distributor.

16. An advertisement providing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said advertisement distribution reservation requesting unit detects whether other symbolic images already exist in the advertisement requesting domain and also transmits, when the other symbolic images are detected, information relating to the other symbolic images to the advertisement distributor.

17. An advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said information displaying means receives the advertisement information including other symbolic images relating to the relevant symbolic image from the advertisement distributor and displays the advertisement information on a user terminal together with the other symbolic images.

18. An advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said detector further includes a determining unit determining whether an icon in which a manipulation is performed corresponds to the symbolic image included in the advertisement information and acquires, when the symbolic image is included in the advertisement information, the positional information relating to the symbolic image as the object of the relevant advertisement information existing in the relevant advertisement requesting domain and also transmits the symbolic image included in the advertisement information and the obtained positional information to the advertisement distribution reservation requesting unit and said advertisement distribution reservation requesting means also includes a generating unit generating the distribution reservation requesting data based on the symbolic image included in the advertisement information transmitted with the detector and the obtained positional information.

19. A terminal apparatus for an information providing system for accepting an

information distribution request from a user via a network and distributing the desired information to the user, comprising:

an information provider display for obtaining a symbolic image representing an information distributor via the network and displaying the symbolic image on a user terminal;

an information requesting domain display displaying an independent predetermined domain;

a detecting unit detecting that a user has selected one or a plurality of symbolic images displayed and has moved the selected symbolic image to the predetermined domain;

an information requesting unit generating an information request for the information distributor corresponding to the selected symbolic image and transmitting this request to the user terminal; and

an information display displaying the information transmitted from the information source on the user terminal.

20. A terminal apparatus for information an providing system as claimed in claim 19, wherein

said information provider display includes a position changing unit changing a display position of a symbolic image depending on user manipulation and a management unit managing the display position of the relevant symbolic image for each user,

said information requesting unit transmits the information requesting data to the information provider including the display position of the symbolic image as the selection object and

said information display receives the information adjusted in accordance with the display position of the symbolic image from the information provider and displays the information.

21. A terminal apparatus for an information providing system as claimed in claim 19, wherein

said detector detects a position of the symbolic image on the information requesting domain and transmits the position data to the information requesting unit,

said information requesting unit transmits the information requesting data to the information distributor, including the position of the symbolic image on the information requesting domain and

said information display displays the information adjusted in accordance with the position of the symbolic image on the information requesting domain from the information distributor.

22. A terminal apparatus for an information providing system as claimed in claim 19, wherein

said information requesting unit detects whether other symbolic images already exist in the information requesting domain and transmits, when the other symbolic images are detected, information relating to the other symbolic images to the information provider.

23. A server used in an information distributing system for accepting an information request from a user via a network and distributing the requested information to the user, comprising:

a transmitter transmitting symbolic images previously stored which correspond to respective information distributors to a user terminal via the network;

a distribution reservation management unit updating a database for managing distribution destinations for each relevant symbolic image based on the transmitted information distribution request, the information distribution request corresponding to a selected symbolic image; and

an information provider distributing the requested information based on content of the database provided for managing the information distribution destinations.

24. A server used in the information providing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein

said distribution reservation management unit includes a rank determining unit obtaining a display position of the symbolic image transmitted to the user terminal, determining an interest level rank depending on the display position and storing the display position information together with the rank information in the database and

said information provider includes a distribution information adjusting unit adjusting an amount of information distributed to a user based on the rank information stored in the database.

25. A terminal apparatus used in an advertisement distributing system for accepting a distribution reservation request from a user via a network and distributing the requested advertisement information to the user, comprising:

an advertisement distributor display obtaining and displaying a symbolic image representing an advertisement distributor via the network;

an advertisement requesting domain display displaying an independent predetermined domain;

a detector detecting that a user has selected one or a plurality of symbolic images and has moved the selected image to the predetermined domain;

a distribution reservation requesting unit generating distribution reservation requesting data for the advertisement distributor corresponding to the detected symbolic image and then transmitting the distribution reservation requesting data to the user; and

an information display displaying advertisement information transmitted from the advertisement distributor to the user terminal.

26. A terminal apparatus used in advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 25, wherein

said advertisement distributor display further includes a position changing unit changing a display position of a symbolic image in response to a user manipulation and a management unit managing the display position of the symbolic image,

said distribution reservation requesting unit transmits the distribution reservation requesting data to the advertisement distributor together with the display position of the symbolic image as a selection object, and

said information display receives the advertisement information adjusted in accordance with the display position of the symbolic image from the advertisement distributor and displays the advertisement information.

27. A terminal apparatus for advertisement distribution service as claimed in claim 25, wherein

said detector detects a position of symbolic image on the advertisement requesting domain and transmits the position data to the distribution reservation requesting unit,

said distribution reservation requesting unit transmits the distribution reservation requesting data to the advertisement distributor, together with the position of the symbolic image on the advertisement requesting domain; and

said information display displays the advertisement information adjusted depending on the position of the symbolic image on the relevant advertisement requesting domain from the information distributor.

28. A terminal apparatus for advertisement providing system as claimed in claim 25,

wherein

said distribution reservation requesting unit detects whether other symbolic images already exist in the advertisement requesting domain and transmits, when the other symbolic images are detected, information relating to the other symbolic images to the advertisement distributor.

29. A server apparatus used in advertisement distributing system for accepting a distribution reservation request from a user via a network and distributing the requested advertisement information to the user, comprising:

a transmitter transmitting symbolic images previously stored which correspond to respective advertisement distributors to a user terminal via the network;

a distribution reservation management unit updating a database for managing advertisement distribution destinations of each relevant symbolic image based on the transmitted distribution reservation request corresponding to a selected symbolic image at the user terminal; and

an information provider distributing the requested advertisement information based on content of the database for managing the advertisement distribution destinations.

30. A server apparatus used in the advertisement distributing system as claimed in claim 29, wherein

said distribution reservation management unit includes a rank determining unit obtaining a display position of the symbolic image transmitted to the user terminal, determining an interest level rank depending on the display position and storing the display position information together with the interest level rank in the database, and

said information distributor includes an advertisement information adjusting unit adjusting the advertisement information to be distributed to the user based on the rank information stored in the database.

31. A memory medium used in a terminal apparatus for the an information providing system among those for accepting an information distribution request from a user via a network to store a program for a user terminal used in the information providing system for the requested information to the user, comprising:

displaying a symbolic image representing an information distributor obtained via the network on the user terminal;

displaying a domain used for a predetermined object;
detecting that at least one symbolic image is allocated to the domain,
transmitting the information distribution request to the information distributor, which is
corresponds to a detected symbolic image; and
displaying information transmitted from the information provider to the user terminal.